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RECENT LITERATURE.

Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. — The Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, held at Omaha, Jan. 12, 1901, makes an octavo pamphlet of about one hundred pages, published at Lincoln, Nebraska, October, 1901, and forms an interesting and valuable contribution to ornithological literature. There is first an 'Abstract of Minutes' of the meeting, followed by the 'Constitution and By-laws' of the Union, and a list of its members, which number: Honorary, 4; Active, 63; Associate, 36; total, 103.

The papers read at the meeting occupy pp. 13–101, and are illustrated by 10 half-tone plates and several cuts in the text. The first paper is the President's address, by G. S. Trostler, on the 'History of Ornithology in Nebraska, and of State Ornithological Societies in General.' Concise statements are given of the founding and present status of seven State ornithological societies, including that of Nebraska, based on authentic information evidently gathered at no little trouble. This is followed by some twenty papers, mostly short, besides several pages of 'Miscellaneous Notes.' The longer papers include 'Birds in their Relation to Agriculture,' by Lawrence Bruner (pp. 18–29); 'A Late Nest of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird,' by Frank H. Shoemaker (pp. 34–38, with 3 plates); 'Young Rose-breasted Grosbeaks,' by Elizabeth Van Sant (pp. 38–42, with 5 plates); 'Birds that nest in Nebraska,' by Lawrence Bruner (pp. 48–61), a briefly annotated list of 203 species and subspecies known to breed, with a list (also annotated) of 40 others that very probably nest in the State, and a nominal list of 60 other "possible breeders." A short but very interesting paper on 'A Peculiar Disease of Birds' Feet observed in Central Nebraska' (pp. 61–63, 1 plate) is by Erwin H. Barbour. The disease especially affects the Blackbirds, and is supposed to be caused by a mite (*Sarcoptes* sp.), akin to that which produces horny excrescences about the lips and nose of wild rabbits of the same part of the State. 'Internal Parasites of Nebraska Birds,' by Henry B. Ward (pp. 63–70), is a brief discussion of the general subject, and a statement of the results of the author's investigations. Several short papers give observations on the birds of particular localities, the results of collecting trips, migration and breeding records, etc. The 'Proceedings' are, in short, made up of excellent material, well presented, and carefully edited, giving ample evidence of ability, earnestness, and enthusiasm on the part of the members of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. The absence of an index is the only point that seems open to criticism. — J. A. A.

Reed's 'American Ornithology.'—Mr. Chas. K. Reed's 'American Ornithology, for the Home and School — a magazine devoted wholly to Birds'

has completed its first year[1] and reaches us as a bound volume of 246 pages, well-filled with half-tone illustrations and popular bird matter. Says the editor: "Our magazine is entirely different from anything hitherto published, in that we propose to give the life history of four or five birds each month, the illustrations of the birds being of sufficient size to be of value, and the eggs of each bird illustrated *full size*" (p. 28). The illustrations occupy usually a full page for each species, and are from original and very creditable drawings, mostly by C. K. Reed, with generally a page and a half to two pages of text, giving the bird's range, a brief description of its external characters, nest and eggs, and habits. The other matter of each number of the magazine is made up of short contributions from various writers, all of a popular character, well suited to the tastes of the beginner and the general reader, illustrated often with half-tone reproductions of photographs of birds' nests and eggs, and young birds. Many of the bird biographies are contributed articles, signed by the authors, those unsigned being doubtless by the editor. The magazine is well printed and the general make-up pleasing and attractive. It appears to be making its way in the world, and is well-deserving of favorable reception on the part of the public. — J. A. A.

Silloway's 'Summer Birds of Flathead Lake.'[2] — This is a well annotated list of 128 species observed in the Flathead Lake region of northern Montana, from June 14 to August 30, 1900, and in June and July, 1901. Of this number 120 species are thought to breed in this region, the other eight being presumably migrants from further north. The list proper is preceded (pp. 3–8) by a description of the topography of the region, which includes Sin-Yale-a-min Lake and McDonald Lake, in the Mission Mountains, as well as Flathead Lake; and also by 'Oölogical Notes from Flathead Lake' (pp. 9–36). These relate to 24 species found nesting in greater or less abundance at Flathead Lake, June 14 to July 5, 1900, and in many cases their nesting habits are described at considerable length. Under the heading 'Summary and Conclusions,' the author notes that the range of the long-tailed Chat (*Icteria virens longicauda*) has been traced to "beyond the middle line of the State" of Montana. He also refers to the abundance of the Western Evening Grosbeak in the immedi-

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[1] American Ornithology. For the Home and School. Edited by C. Albert Reed. Vol. I. Worcester, Mass. Chas. K. Reed, publisher. 1901. — 8vo. pp. 246, copiously illustrated with half tone plates and text cuts.

[2] Summer Birds of Flathead Lake. By P. M. Silloway, Fergus County High School, author of 'Some Common Birds.' Prepared at the University of Montana Biological Station, under direction of Morton J. Elrod, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana, 1901. 8vo pp. 1–83, pll. i–xvi = Bulletin of the University of Montana, No. 3, Biological Series No. 1.